

Thomas Johannes Rickert

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CURRENT ROLES:

Legal Practitioner

- **Partner Schollmeyer & Rickert Rechtsanwalts-gesellschaft m.b.H.** - law firm specializing in IT law (www.anwaelte.de), since 2002, specializing in DNS related legal issues, contract law, data protection law, IP rights and liability issues and jointly managing the firm, focusing on staff management and development.

eco Subject Area Expert

- **Director Names & Numbers eco e.V.** – The eco Names & Numbers Forum is a division of the German Internet Industrie's Association, which deals with topics surrounding domain names and DNS. I regularly chair conferences and workshops on legal, technical and policy issues.

PAST ACTIVITIES

- 1999 – 2008 Chair of the Internet Content Task Force**, which is a division of eco, the German Internet Service Providers' Association which deals with responses to the illegal use and content of the Internet (www.eco.de), advising eco's members in the area of content liability and on data protection issues. My work included regular liaison with stakeholders such as the EU, OECD, various Ministries at the Federal Government and Federal State level, KJM, BPjM, vzbv (Federal Association of Consumer Protection Bureaus) and law enforcement authorities. I regularly represented the association at the national and international level on content related issues including press liaison. Additionally, I was part of the management team for eco's Internet Beschwerdestelle, a hotline taking reports from the public about illegal and harmful material (www.eco.de, www.internet-beschwerdestelle.de).
- 2003-2009 Project manager and Spokesperson for the ICAddeutschland.de consortium**, which aimed at developing an industry-wide approach in the area of technical youth protection on the basis of the Internet Content Rating Association's (now renamed to FOSI, the Family Online Safety Institute, fosi.org) approach of Self Labeling.
- 2004 – 2007 Project manager of Spotsam**, funded under the EU Safer Internet Action Plan, an international project to facilitate cross-border legal action against spammers by operating a database of spam complaints.
- 2004 - 2008 Member of the expert panel of the Certified Senders' Alliance**, a joint project of eco and the German Direct Marketing Association (www.ddv.de). Bulk e-mail senders who do permission marketing are accredited and added to

an ‘allow’ list to be used by ISPs in their spam filtering processes (www.eco.de).

- 2002 - 2005** **President of the INHOPE Association** (www.inhope.org), the international representative organization of Internet hotlines which take complaints about illegal and harmful content. During my presidency, the organization grew from 15 to 23 members in 21 countries.
- 2003 - 2004** **Chair of the legal expert group of eco’s Anti-Spam-Task-Force** which has broad representation from the Internet industry.
- 2000 - 2002** **Member of the Supervisory Board of a stock corporation** offering Internet services. German law requires stock corporations to have a shareholder-appointed supervisory board to oversee the main Board’s work.
- 1999 - 2002** **Attorney at law and co-managing director with the two partners in Schneider & Schollmeyer Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft m.b.H.** (which was renamed to Schollmeyer & Rickert Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft m.b.H. after I bought Mr. Schneider’s share of the practice). Managed the Cologne office from 1999 to 2001.
- 1998 - 1999** **Law trainee with Kanzlei Schneider & Partner** (which was renamed to Schneider & Schollmeyer Rechtsanwaltsgesellschaft m.b.H. after Mr. Schollmeyer joined the law firm).

QUALIFICATIONS

- 1989** **Abitur** (diploma from German secondary school qualifying for university admission or matriculation).
- 1996** **Erstes Juristisches Staatsexamen** (1st legal state examination).
- 1999** **Zweites Juristisches Staatsexamen** (2nd legal state examination following a two year phase as law trainee, qualification allows practice as an attorney-at-law, a public prosecutor or appointment as a judge).